

REMARKS

This is a Response to a non-final Office Action mailed December 13, 2005. Twenty (20) claims, including five (5) independent claims, were paid for in the application. No claims have been canceled. Claims 25-28, 30, and 32 are currently amended. No new claims have been added. No new matter has been added to the application. No fee for additional claims is due by way of this Amendment. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Claims 25-28, 30-32, 34, and 36-37 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 31 and 37.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 25-28, 30, 32, 34, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,289,577 to Tanaka et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Tanaka"). Of the rejected claims, claims 25 and 32 are independent claims.

Tanaka discloses a joined metal-resin body constructed by joining a head arm with a head support spring for supporting the head of a magnetic, optical, or optical-magnetic disk drive (column 1, lines 9-19). In one embodiment, Tanaka teaches that the joined metal-resin plate body includes a metal plate 1, a resin plate 2, an insert member 3, and a metallic joining member 4 (column 4, lines 1-8; Figures 1-3). Tanaka teaches that the metallic joining member 4 should be made of a soft metal alloy to facilitate deformation thereof (column 5, lines 1-5).

In addition, Tanaka teaches that, before radial expansion of the assembly, the insert member 3 has only two configurations. A first configuration of the insert member 3 is where the insert member 3 does not have any radial flanges (*re:* Figure 2). A second configuration of the insert member 3 is where the insert member 3 includes more than a single or more than only one radial flange, in particular a radial flange located at each end of the insert member 3 (*re:* Figures 3, 7, and 9).

Applicants' claim 25 recites, *inter alia*, "prior to installation, the outer metal bushing includes a single radial flange ... prior to installation, the inner metal bushing includes a single radial flange." Likewise, claim 32 recites substantially similar language.

Tanaka does not disclose, teach or suggest that the insert member 3 has a single, or only one, radial flange prior to installation. To the contrary, Tanaka teaches that the insert member 3 does not have even one flange or is formed with at least two flanges prior to installation in the joined metal-resin body. For a proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the cited reference must disclose all elements/features/steps of the claim. See, *e.g.*, *E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. v. Phillips Petroleum Co.*, 849 F.2d 1430, 7 USPQ2d 1129 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Consequently, claims 25 and 32 are not anticipated by Tanaka. In addition, claims 26, 28, and 30, which depend from claim 25, and claims 34 and 36, which depend from claim 32, are allowable because they depend from respective allowable base claims. See, *e.g.*, *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Conclusion

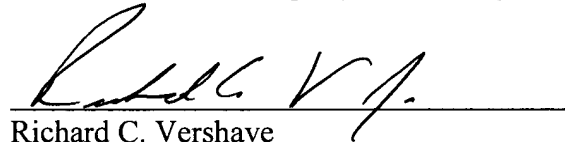
Overall, the cited reference does not teach or suggest the claimed features recited in independent claims 25 and 32 and, thus, these claims are allowable. Independent claims 31 and 37 stand as previously allowed. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims, which depend from the allowable independent claims, are likewise allowable because they include all of the features of the allowable independent base claims and further include additional features or qualifications. If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a relevant teaching in any of the references, the Examiner is requested to point out specifically where such teaching may be found.

Applicants submit that all remarks herein that reference structural analogies or comparisons between Applicants' apparatus and those in the cited reference are provided for brevity and clarity and do not constitute an admission that any particular feature is structurally analogous and/or similar.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application and timely allow all pending claims. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Vershave by telephone to discuss the above and any other distinctions between the claims and the applied references, if desired. If the Examiner notes any informalities in the claims, he is encouraged to contact Mr. Vershave by telephone to expediently correct such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard C. Vershave', is written over a horizontal line.

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